



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street, Room B-50/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

MEMBERS

Dennis P. Zine
Chair

Heather Aubry
Vice Chair

Nelson L. Atkins
Clifton Albright
Annie Y. Huang
Bertrum CeDillos
Andrew Friedman
Gary L. Barr
Paul A. Jacobs
Neal S. Millard
Sylvia Scott-Hayes
David C Voss, Jr.

MINUTES OF THE 706th MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 706th meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on November 12, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis P. Zine , Chair
Heather Aubry, Vice Chair
Clifton Albright
Nelson L. Atkins
Gary L. Barr
Andrew Friedman
Annie Y. Huang
Paul A. Jacobs
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Bertrum CeDillos
Neal S. Millard
David C. Voss, Jr.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Beatriz Dieringer, District Attorney's Office
Laura Green, Public Defender's Office
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Kit Bobko, Independent Cities Association
James Endman, Superior Court
Margaret Little, Ph.D., Court Representative

STAFF

Martha Arana, Commission Services Staff
Jimmy Prieto, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Zine called the 706th regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:23 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Clifton Albright.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Albright, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2009, were approved as submitted.

STATUS OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

Chair Zine reported the following:

- He met with William T. Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, to discuss the status of the Judicial Procedures Commission. Mr. Fujioka assured him that the Commission can stay in operation on the condition that a quorum can consistently be met, and that goals set are accomplished.
- In response to quorum concerns he plans to fill vacancies and urge absentee Commissioners to attend meetings or resign to allow more active Commissioners to be assigned. Commissioners were urged to recommend potential candidates to fill current vacancies, which currently consist of two seats in the 1st District, one seat in the 3rd District and one seat in the 5th District. Due to the number of existing vacancies and absenteeism, quorum rules may need to be revised so that a quorum can be met.
- Plans are under way to schedule on-site Commission visits at locations such as Child Care Centers, the Los Angeles County Grand Jury, and Self-Help Centers.
- He offered to waive the \$25 per meeting stipend that Commissioners currently receive to reduce costs incurred by the Commission.

Chair Zine discussed plans for the Commissions annual holiday gathering. Commissioner Albright proposed having the event at the City Club, and offered to secure reservations at this venue. After discussion, the Commission agreed to hold its annual holiday party at the City Club on December 10, 2009, at 12:00 p.m. Commission Staff will contact the Commission and provide additional information.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Albright, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved cancellation of the December 10, 2009 meeting.

Patrick "Kit" Bobko, Independent Cities Association, was welcomed as the new member of the Commission. Mr. Bobko is a shareholder in the Litigation Department and the Appellate Law Practice Group at Richards, Watson & Gershon and serves his community as a member of the Hermosa Beach City Council. He is currently serving his first term as Mayor and he was elected to the Council in June 2006.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Safe Child Custody Exchange Program (SCCEP)

Ex-Officio Dieringer reported that in July 2009, the Board of Supervisors approved funding for family visitation centers and the Safe Child Custody Exchange Centers to be opened at *Friends of the Family* and the *Grace Resource Center*. The Department of Children and Family Services will be drafting contracts to start the programs; both centers will begin to provide services in January 2010. The Wings of Faith Center in Carson CA, lost its funding.

Diversity on the Bench Initiative

Commissioner Albright reported that meetings will be scheduled to create outreach efforts regarding diversity on the bench. Ex-Officio Endman reminded the Commission that they should meet with the minority bar associations and have them present their list of candidates. Ex-Officio Dieringer reported that there are seminars intended for minorities regarding judge prospects. Chair Zine added that the Governor's term is ending, and that he will most likely make appointments prior to his departure. Commissioner Scott-Hayes suggested extending an invitation to the Appointments Officer from the Governor's office to request a presentation on chair vacancies for judges in the courts at a future Commission meeting.

Public Guardian Program

Margaret Little, Ph.D., Superior Court Representative, deferred to the Judicial Procedures (JPC) Trust Fund Committee Chair to report on progress made with the Donation to A Needy Conserved Elder (DANCE) program.

Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) Trust Fund Committee

Commissioner Gary Barr, Chair of the JPC Trust Fund Committee, reported the following:

- The JPC Trust Fund account balance is \$3,522.75.
- To date, the Sogo Group has donated \$1,500, and has made a commitment donate an additional \$1,500.00 in increments of \$500.00 per month.
- At the July 2009 Commission meeting, the Commission approved to earmark donations from the Sogo Group for the DANCE Program.
- The JPC Trust Fund Committee met today, before the Commission's regular meeting and discussed two documents titled, *Donation Process* – the Commission's process for the acceptance and distribution of funds and the administration of the JPC Trust Fund; and the *Judicial Procedures Trust Fund Committee Chair (Chair)* – the role and responsibilities of the Chair of the JPC Trust Fund Committee in administering the JPC Trust Fund.

After discussion, the JPC Trust Fund Committee offered the following recommendations for approval by the Commission:

The Commission approved the JPC Trust Fund Committee's recommendations regarding the Donation Process.

Motion: Ex-Officio Dieringer, seconded by Commissioner Albright
Vote: Unanimous

The Commission approved the JPC Trust Fund Committee's recommendation regarding the responsibilities and role of the Chair of the JPC Trust Fund Committee in administering the JPC Trust Fund. Item No. 5 of the *Judicial Procedures Trust Fund Committee Chair (Chair)* document was revised to read, "In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, authorize Commission Services Staff to make incidental expenditures **in an amount not to exceed \$200** on behalf of the Commission and pursuant to the JPC Donation Process."

Motion: Commissioner Albright, seconded by Ex-Officio Dieringer
Vote: Unanimous

The Commission approved the JPC Trust Fund Committee's recommendation to disperse \$1,500 to the WISE and Healthy Aging (WISE Group) for the DANCE Program with the following conditions: 1) No funds will be allocated to the WISE Group for administrative expenses, and 2) a representative from the WISE Group reports back to the Commission at the January 2010 meeting on the use of the \$1,500 to purchase small gifts for the DANCE Program, the progress of the program, and if any administrative costs may be needed by the WISE Group to administer the program.

Motion: Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs
Vote: Unanimous

After discussion, on motion of Ex Officio member Beatrice Dieringer, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved writing a *thank you* letter and issuing a certificate of appreciation to the Sogo Group for its generous contributions to the DANCE Program.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)

Discussion on the possibility to amend the Commission Bylaws and Ordinance regarding quorums at Commission meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, and unanimously carried, the 706th meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission adjourned at 1:11 p.m.